



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 12th April 2026

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

Psalm 16:1-2

HYMN: 401 Singing the Faith

1] Come, sinners, to the gospel feast;
let every soul be Jesus' guest.
You need not one be left behind,
for God has called all humankind.

2] Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
the invitation is to all.
Come, all the world and witness how
All things in Christ are ready now.

3] Come, all you souls by sin oppressed,
you restless wanderers after rest;
you poor, and maimed, and sick, and blind,
in Christ a hearty welcome find.

4] His love is mighty to compel
His conquering love consent to feel
Yield to his love's resistless power
And fight against your God no more

5] See him set forth before your eyes
Behold the bleeding sacrifice
His offered benefits embrace
And freely now be saved by grace

6] This is the time, no more delay!
This is the Lord's accepted day.
Come in, this moment, at his call,
and live for him who died for all.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

PRAYER

In the beginning was the Word: the Word inspires and infuses all of our words, our stories and songs.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us: God's story of hope and life was opened for all.

This becomes our story, our song: all things work together for good for those who love God.

May our lives tell your story, loving God and our song be for you, today and forever.

In Jesus' name. Amen

LET US JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER

READING - John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn - 508 Singing the Faith

1] Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold
And precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold, Pure gold.

*Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You, my Master,
Ready to do Your will.*

2] Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin,
Deep within.

Brian Doerksen (B.1965)

Reflection

Our reading today is really part two of the resurrection story. The same day, that same evening after Jesus had risen from the grave. Unsurprisingly it was still sinking in what they had either seen or heard from others, that their teacher, their Jesus, the one whom they had seen die on the cross, was alive. I love the fact that Jesus could walk through walls...the Gospel writer give us the lovely details that all the doors were locked, and yet Jesus just appeared before them, the miracles just kept on happening.

Here we have the disciples (well, most of them) gathered together behind locked doors, in fear of their lives. The initial stories, even the witness of some of their gang, had not tempered their fears. Many would be thinking, “am I next for the cross?”. Remember this was still “day one” of the new era. I have great sympathy with them gathered in their room. Trying to make sense of the past week’s events was too much. In some respect, everything had changed and they were somehow right in the middle of things as Jesus’ disciples. What was going to happen next?

And there was Jesus, right in front of them, talking to them, complete with the scars of his crucifixion. Difficult to believe, but also impossible to deny. Jesus had a habit of saying things like do not fear...even at the scariest of times, and this was no different...he simply says “Peace be with you”...a normal, everyday greeting, one he might say passing them in the street. A simple, shalom. But then he looks at them and gives an answer to their, “what next?” thoughts, “as the Father sent me, so I send you”. They were to carry on the work of that Jesus had begun in this world. Jesus was commissioning them, breathing the Holy Spirit upon them, signifying that he would always remain with them and within them as they do God’s work.

And they did.

Jesus’ teachings have spread throughout the world, throughout history and continues to this day and will continue into the future. The Risen Christ cannot be contained. Those that choose to be Jesus’ disciples are still commissioned with carrying out the work of God in every generation.

Those fearful early disciples, those that doubted, like Thomas, became great witnesses to all that Jesus did and said and changed our world. They were transformed completely. And today Jesus is still transformer us, in order to make a difference in our communities...let us not remain fearful behind locked doors, but let us go out into the world as workers and witnesses for God. AMEN

Prayers

Eternal, Everlasting God you are eternally patient with us, and no matter what we do, you persevere with us. Help each of us to show patience and perseverance with others; and with this prayer in our hearts and on our lips, we pray for those we know and love and hear of this day.

For those struggling to accept the Easter message of resurrection; for those who long to have faith but miss the final step; who long to see Jesus but doubt what they see, seeing only as if in a mirror dimly; who long to hear your word, but grasp only a muffle and murmur; for those who need convincing of the truth in an age of fake news and skewed views.

For those who are suffering through health, through grief, through loneliness and depression, who wake to the morning light and dread the day that lies ahead; for those who dread the dark nights of wakefulness, tossing and turning; for those who feel there is no hope for tomorrow.

For those without the shelter of a home, with no roots to a place, who are constantly forced to move on, change direction through war or violence, political unrest, prejudice, religious hatred and so much more; for those who seek refuge in new places and new lands with new languages.

And for ourselves we pray, that we might know the wisdom of the psalmist, the grace of God, the blessing of the Spirit, the love and companionship of each other and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God, in whom we believe:

Bless them.

These are our prayers this day. **Amen**

HYMN 314 Singing the Faith

1] This joyful Eastertide,
What need is there for grieving?
Cast all your cares aside
And be not unbelieving:

*Come, share our Easter joy
That death could not imprison,
Nor any power destroy,
Our Christ, who is arisen
Arisen, arisen, arisen*

2] No work for him is vain,
No faith in him mistaken,
For Easter makes it plain
His kingdom is not shaken:

Come, share our Easter joy.....

3] Then put your trust in Christ,
In waking and in sleeping.
His grace on earth sufficed;
He'll never quit His keeping:

Come, share our Easter joy.....

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Blessing

Lord, renew my faith this Easter.
Help me let go of old doubts, embrace new beginnings,
and walk in obedience and love,
reflecting Your presence in my life. Amen